

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action of February 25, 2004, in which claims 1, 3-6, 8-12, 14-17, 19-22 and 24-26 are presently pending. Of those, claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 14-17, 19-22 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,323,648 to Belt, et al. In addition, claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Belt, in view of U.S. Patent 6,396,269 to Hajnal, et al. For the following reasons, however, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

As an initial matter, Figure 1 has been amended as indicated above to include the legend --Prior Art--. Replacement Figures incorporating these changes are submitted herewith and are designated as such by an appropriate identifier in the top margin thereof. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

With regard to the §102 and §103 rejections based on the art of record, dependent claims 5, 16, 21 and 26 have been cancelled and the limitations thereof have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 11, 17 and 22, respectively. In addition, independent claim 6 has been amended to include the terminology "symmetrically arranged" with respect to the third direction so as to be consistent with the first and second directions.

In a telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned on May 18, 2004, it was pointed out on behalf of the Applicants that the Belt reference does not teach or suggest a symmetrical alignment of the left and right portions of the anterior sections with respect to the left and right portions of the posterior section, as now provided for in each of the remaining claims. As can be seen most particularly in Figure 2A of Belt,

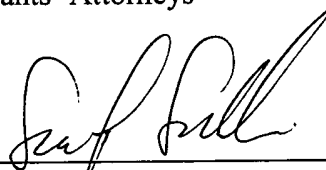
although left coils 54a and 55a of the anterior section are overlapping respect to one another and are non-overlapping with respect to right coils 54b and 55b of the anterior section, there is still no symmetrical alignment of the anterior coils over the posterior coils such that the corresponding posterior coils (i.e., 44a, 45a on the left, and 44b, 45b on the right) are also overlapping in the superior/inferior direction and non-overlapping in the left-right direction. In other words, posterior left coil 44a overlaps posterior right coil 44b, while posterior left coil 45a overlaps posterior right coil 45b. Therefore, the claimed feature of "symmetrical alignment" with respect to anterior and posterior sections is not present in the Belt reference and, as such, the §102 and §103 rejections on this basis have been overcome.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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